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EMERGENCY BREAKING: WAR ERUPTS; Maduro ABDUCTED! Trump: "The US Will Run Venezuela" | Kyle Kulinski

Overview of the Military Intervention

On Saturday, January 3, the United States officially launched a regime change war against Venezuela. The military operation began with a massive bombing raid targeting the capital city of Caracas, resulting in what has been described as a chaotic and terrifying situation that bypasses established international law. During the assault, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, were reportedly taken into custody by U.S. forces. While the Trump administration describes this as a successful "capture," critics and the Venezuelan government characterize the act as a kidnapping and abduction of a sovereign nation's leader.

Timeline of the Operation

The military action followed a specific sequence of events starting late Friday night. At approximately 10:30 p.m., Chinese officials arrived in Venezuela for a scheduled meeting with President Maduro. Unexpected air strikes commenced at 1:15 a.m., and by 2:40 a.m., President Trump confirmed he had personally ordered the strikes. At 4:20 a.m., the White House announced the capture of Maduro and his wife, and by 7:25 a.m., both were indicted in the Southern District of New York.

Official Justifications and Legal Framework

The U.S. government has justified the military action by categorizing it as a law enforcement operation. The Department of Justice, represented by officials like Pam Bondi, charged Maduro with

narco-terrorism conspiracy, cocaine importation conspiracy, and the possession of machine guns and destructive devices. Senator Marco Rubio and other officials argued that the "kinetic action" was a necessary exercise of the president's Article II authority to protect U.S. personnel during the execution of arrest warrants.

However, many legal analysts and members of Congress have challenged these justifications. Critics argue that indicting a foreign leader does not grant the executive branch the authority to invade a sovereign country without a formal declaration of war from Congress. Furthermore, there are concerns that the administration is utilizing an outdated Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) from the early 2000s to bypass constitutional requirements.

Military Targets and Civilian Impact

The bombing campaign targeted various locations throughout Caracas and surrounding regions. Notable sites included:

- Higuote Airport: Significant strikes were reported at this facility east of Caracas.
- Military Installations: Strikes were directed at military sites in the states of Miranda, Aragua, and La Guaira.
- Symbolic Sites: Reports indicate the bombing of the Cartel de la Montana, where the remains of former President Hugo Chávez are interred, an act viewed by some as symbolic violence against Venezuelan national memory.
- Civilian Infrastructure: Videos have surfaced showing bombed roads and strikes occurring in residential neighborhoods.

The Venezuelan defense minister reported that the strikes targeted both military and civilian sites, putting millions of lives at risk. Additionally, there are reports of significant civilian casualties throughout the Caribbean related to recent U.S. naval activity.

Venezuelan Government and International Response

In response to the strikes, the Venezuelan government issued a formal statement repudiating the "extremely grave military aggression" and declaring it a flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter. President Maduro signed a decree declaring a state of external commotion throughout the country, calling for an immediate transition to armed struggle to defend national sovereignty. The Venezuelan Vice President and Defense Minister, despite early reports of their assassination, appeared to remain active in organizing the national defense.

Internationally, the action drew sharp condemnation. Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva described the bombing and capture as an "unacceptable affront" to sovereignty and a dangerous precedent for the international community. In the United Kingdom, Member of Parliament Jeremy Corbyn labeled the U.S. a "cowboy state" and called the invasion an illegal act of regime change.

Strategic Motives: Oil and Geopolitics

While the U.S. cited drug trafficking as the primary motivation, various sources and previous statements by President Trump suggest that control over Venezuela's natural resources is the central objective. Venezuela possesses the world's largest proven oil reserves, as well as significant deposits of gold, copper, and lithium. President Trump previously stated that the U.S. should have "taken over" Venezuela to secure its oil.

Analysts suggest that securing Venezuelan oil provides a strategic buffer for the U.S. in the event of a confrontation with Iran. By controlling a reliable alternative source of heavy crude, the U.S. could better absorb the economic shocks of energy disruptions in the Persian Gulf. Furthermore, opposition leader Maria Corina Machado has promoted a massive privatization program that would open Venezuela’s oil, gas, and mining sectors to U.S. corporations and billionaires.

Domestic Context and Public Opinion

Within the United States, the military intervention has met with significant internal opposition. Anti-war organizations have called for nationwide protests, arguing that the war is an attempt to dominate Latin America rather than a genuine effort to stop drug trafficking. Some political observers, including Representative Chris Murphy, suggested the timing of the strikes might be an effort to distract the public from rising domestic prices and the release of the Jeffrey Epstein files.

Public opinion data suggests the war is unpopular, with approximately 45% of Americans opposing the overthrow of the Venezuelan government and only 17% in favor. Despite this, the Trump administration has indicated that the U.S. intends to "run Venezuela for now," signaling a period of direct American oversight of the country's governance and resources.